



Montana Officials Association

MHSA 1 South Dakota Avenue, Helena, MT 59601 406-442-6010

November 2025

TO: MOA BASKETBALL OFFICIALS

FROM: GRETA BUEHLER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

RE: BASKETBALL STUDY CLUBS

Your MOA Regional Director is responsible for listing you as fulfilling your obligations with these guides. **Study club attendance sheets must be signed by your Regional Director, so please be certain they get to him/her. He/she will forward them on to the MOA office. DO NOT SEND THEM DIRECTLY TO THE MOA OFFICE.** If your pool needs study club attendance sheets (there is a specific form to be completed for study club credit), please contact Amy at the MOA office or print one from the [Forms page](#) of the MOA section of the MHSA website. You can access the [MOA Section](#) by clicking here or go to the MHSA home page and click on MOA on the right side of the page. **ALL** MOA questions will be directly addressed with Amy Bartels @ abartels@mhsa.org

This year, four video study clubs will be provided to pools, and it is MANDATORY that all MOA basketball officials view them. The reasoning behind making the video study clubs mandatory is to develop consistency in mechanics and rules applications for all officials across the state. Also, enclosed in this packet are 3 written study clubs. Only 2 of the 3 written study clubs are required (for 6 total study clubs to maintain rating), but because all the information is important, you may want to use both a written study club and a video for one meeting to cover all the material.

Much of the study club material requires that a group leader moderate the discussion. Please conduct the meeting as a lesson so that as much information as possible can be gained by the group's members. Additionally, please discuss issues and ramifications of rules and mechanics with your less experienced officials. Remember that you probably have all levels of officiating experience and expertise within your membership.

As another year is set to begin, we wish you the best in your officiating endeavors, and we appreciate the work that you do for Montana's youth activities.

**MONTANA OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION
BASKETBALL STUDY CLUB OUTLINES
2025-26
LESSON # 1**

NAME _____

CLUB _____ DATE _____

Preferably use before the season's first game:

- I. Review the October *Official Word*.
- II. Discuss any issues/concerns/ideas prompted by the MOA/MHSA Rules Clinic.
- III. Review the MOA Handbook taking special note of new (bolded and italicized) areas. Be aware of major revisions in the sport(s) that affect you.
- IV. MOA Handbook changes and reminders for 2025-26 are as follows:
 1. Mileage has increased to **70 ¢** per mile this year. Per diem for each official is **16 ¢** per mile. So, the driver, for a regular season game, would receive **86 ¢** per mile while the rider official would receive **16 ¢** per mile.
 2. Basketballs to be used for the 2025-26 Basketball Season, as approved by the MHSA Executive Board:
 - The basketball to be used for all levels of play shall include the NFHS authenticating mark for both regular and postseason play.
 - **During MHSA postseason play, boys shall use the Baden Perfection Elite BX7E basketball and the girls shall use the Baden Perfection Elite BX6E basketball.**
 3. Basketball three-person crew fees are: varsity--\$80, subvarsity--\$45.
Basketball two-person crew fees are: varsity--\$80, subvarsity--\$60.
 4. General assignment policy (XXVI-A-6, p. 128): Officials are prohibited from working a varsity contest or tournament where they cohabitate with or have an immediate relative who is participating as an athlete or head coach. Officials are also prohibited from working postseason contests in the gender-specific classification where they have an immediate relative or step relative who is participating as an athlete or head coach. An immediate relative is defined as a parent, spouse, brother, sister, child or grandchild. Officials who coach are prohibited from working a varsity contest or tournament of his/her gender-specific sport in the classification he/she coaches.
 5. Game cancellation policy (XXVII- E, p. 131): If an official was not notified but was present to work a contest that was cancelled or postponed for reasons related to an act of God including, but not limited to, power failure, adverse weather, or hazardous road conditions, the officials must be paid at least half of the game fee plus all travel and per diem allowances. Contest(s) cancelled due to weather or act of God will be rescheduled using the same officials (if possible) and those officials will receive only travel and per diem allowances for the cancelled contest(s). If different officials are used, officials will be paid all travel/per diem allowance and game fee. Regarding cancellations/postponements after the contest begins, officials that work one quarter (or its equivalent) or more will receive a full game fee and if the officials work less than one quarter, they will receive half of a game fee.
 6. Official uniform (XIII-C, p. 121): Basketball officials may wear a black and white striped shirt. For each game the uniform shirt must be the same for each member of the officiating crew and must be tucked in. The official pants used for basketball shall be full-length slacks of a solid black color that shall measure to the top of the official shoe, which shall include black crew-length, unadorned socks. Basketball officials may wear a standard warm-up jacket, solid black pullover, full zip or button up, unadorned (except for MOA service pins).
 7. MOA Code of Ethics (XVIII-L, p. 123): **I will not approach coaches or athletic directors, personally or by mail, relative to assignments or ratings or in regard to game calls, mechanics or procedural duties. Those questions should be initially addressed through the pool leader, MOA Regional Director or the MOA office.**

8. Guidelines for MOA Pools (Section XV-K, p. 122): Officials **pools** may provide information regarding availability of eligible officials for postseason assignment to a district or division representative for distribution to schools in those districts or divisions, when requested in writing. Individual officials shall not provide such information.
9. Because basketball districts/divisions are now scheduling play-in games on Monday or Tuesday to pare the tournament down to an eight-team bracket, if one of the tournament officials has a work-related conflict and is unable to officiate the play-in or a challenge game, the MOA office or tournament manager can assign one of the other tournament officials to work this game(s).
10. An alternate official must always be available for basketball tournament games below the state level. A schedule of alternate officials should be prepared by the tournament officials and coordinated by the tournament manager.
11. Language was added to the MOA Handbook to allow officials whose employment requires them to be away from home during the week to attend study clubs at an alternate pool location with the permission of the regional director(s).
12. Officials utilizing lodging accommodations provided by the tournament manager may be provided a single room when feasible and at the discretion of the tournament manager.
13. The Referee will print the names of the officials officiating that game in the scorebook.
14. Pink whistles may be used by officials at contests designated as breast cancer awareness events. Any other uniform modifications for the purpose of supporting a charitable fundraising event must be approved in advance by the MOA Commissioner.
15. **The MHSAs/MOAs will require each official to take the “NFHS Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know” course each year.** The online concussion course must be viewed after June 1st for an official to be eligible for the coming school year. The deadline for viewing the course will coincide with the deadline for viewing the rules clinic for each sport. For officials who work more than one sport, you must complete the concussion course by the rule’s clinic deadline for your first sport of the year. The concussion course must be completed only once per school year, but it must be completed before officiating *any* high school scrimmage or game. The penalty for not completing the concussion clinic by the deadline will be the same as the penalty for non-completion of the rules clinic. ***However, the MOA official, by law, cannot work any scrimmage or contest until the concussion clinic has been viewed.***

Officials are asked to use their best judgment in observing the signs, symptoms and behaviors of a concussion and other possible serious injuries. If there is a player who exhibits signs and symptoms of an injury, officials will make coaches aware of the injured player and call an injury time out. The official should notify the coach by making the following statement: “Coach, you need to take a look at this player; he/she is exhibiting signs and symptoms of an injury.”

Once the official notifies the coach, it is now the coach’s responsibility. The official does not need written permission for an athlete to return to play nor does the official need to verify the credentials of the appropriate health-care professional. **Officials do not determine RETURN TO PLAY (RTP).**

V. Review and discuss the following rules adopted by the MHSAs.

1. MHSAs BASKETBALL MERCY RULE

For the 2025-26 basketball season, the Basketball Mercy Rule will again be used by all MHSAs member schools. It will be used for all levels of play (varsity and subvarsity), in the second half only, once a team has a forty (40) point or better lead against their opponent. A running clock will ensue **until the end of the game even if the difference in the score drops below the forty-point margin.** The only time the clock will stop will be between quarters, time outs, and when replacing an injured or disqualified player.

In the second half of a basketball game, the official scorer and timer will be responsible for running the clock continuously except for the below situations, once a team has a forty (40) point or better lead against their opponent.

1. Once the clock signals the end of a quarter or overtime period, the clock will be stopped until play is started for the next quarter or overtime period.
2. Once an official signals for a called time-out, the clock will be stopped until play is started following the time-out.
3. Once an official beckons or bench personnel come onto the floor to attend to an injured player, the clock will be stopped until play is started again.
4. Once an official informs the Head Coach that a player has been disqualified from further participation in the game, the clock will be stopped until play is started again.

Game management must inform the official scorer and timer of this MHSB Basketball Mercy Rule and the provisions of the rule.

The following are MHSB Basketball Mercy Rule clarifications for the 2025-26 basketball season:

Free throws (including technical fouls) are shot with a running clock once the MHSB Basketball Mercy Rule goes into effect. The only time the clock would stop to shoot free throws would be when a player has been disqualified from further participation in the game, the clock would be stopped to replace the disqualified player and during the shooting of required free throws. The clock would be restarted in this situation:

1. If a free throw is not successful and the ball is to remain live, the clock shall be started when the ball touches or is touched by a player on the court or
2. If the free throw(s) are made and play is resumed by a throw-in, the clock shall be started when the ball touches, or is legally touched by, a player on the court after it is released by the thrower.

The shot clock will still be used when the mercy rule is in effect.

2. 35-SECOND SHOT CLOCK

In accordance with Rule 2-14, the MHSB has adopted a 35-second shot clock. The following are the guidelines for the shot clock: [MHSB Shot Clock Guidelines](#). Review the guidelines as needed.

In the event of shot clock malfunction, the following protocol will be used:

- When one shot clock is functioning, that device will be used.
- When both shot clocks fail, an alternate timing device (i.e. stopwatch) and alternate sound device (i.e. air horn) will be used. The PA announcer (or shot clock operator, if necessary) will count down from 10. Alternatively, the PA announcer could announce '10' and '5' seconds. The air horn will be used to indicate the end of the shot clock.
- When one or more shot clocks are not functioning, the offensive team's bench can count out loud from 10 down, but the defensive team (or the defensive team's fans) cannot "counter-count" or count down incorrectly. The first offense is a warning. The second offense is an indirect technical to the head coach.

3. NO 5-SECOND CLOSELY GUARDED PROVISION

The five-second closely guarded provision while a player dribbles the ball is eliminated. The closely guarded rules remain in effect while a player dribbles the ball. The modification allows players to dribble the ball for more than five seconds while closely guarded and maintains that a player may not hold the ball for five or more seconds while closely guarded.

VI. Please take time as a group to review and discuss the following articles listed in the 2025-26 *Preseason Basketball Guide*.

- You Can't Touch This – pages 1-3
- Flashback: 2024-25 NFHS Rule Changes – pages 4-5
- All the Right Moves – pages 7-8
- It's Time to Talk Timeouts – pages 11-12
- Establish Bench Expectations Early – pages 12-13
- Know Your Throws – page 14-15
- Breaking Down Backcourt Violations – pages 15-16

VII. Read and discuss the 2025-26 NFHS Basketball Rules Interpretations (below).

2025-26 NFHS Basketball Rules Book Corrections: (Underlining shows additions; ~~strikethrough~~ shows deletions.)

Page 3, 7-5-4: ... following a stoppage of play (not due to the ball going out of bounds) in the frontcourt or backcourt;

Page 41, 4-36-2a(2): In the backcourt at an ~~out-of-bounds spot~~ based one of the four designated spots based on the ball's location relative to the three-point line where the ball was located when the interruption occurred.

Page 65, 9-12 PENALTIES 1: See Rule 10-4-~~89~~ for additional penalty for goaltending during a free throw.

2025-26 NFHS Basketball Case Book Corrections: (Underlining shows additions; ~~strikethrough~~ shows deletions.)

4.34.1 SITUATION: Team A requests a time-out; at the conclusion of the time-out as the teams are returning to the court, A1 curses at the game officials. **RULING:** A1 is assessed a technical foul. The foul will count as one of A1's fouls toward disqualification and count toward the team foul count. An indirect technical foul is also charged to the head coach

resulting in the loss of coaching-box privileges as A1 is considered bench personnel in this situation. COMMENT: During a time-out, A1 is considered a player and not bench personnel. Once the official has instructed the timer to start the time-out, all players become bench personnel. They remain bench personnel until the ball becomes live following the time-out.

2025-26 NFHS Basketball PowerPoint Corrections: (Underlining shows additions; ~~strikethrough~~ shows deletions.)

Slide 16: THROW-IN PROVISIONS 9-2-121;

Slide 17: OUT OF BOUNDS 9-3-4 (NEW) Previously in rule 10-4-2 as it pertained to a thrower delay. This was added to out-of-bounds section as a proposal approved by the Rules Committee in April 2025.

~~**Slide 18: PLAYER TECHNICAL 10-4-4b;**~~ content added to Slide 19

SITUATION 1 (Basket Interference): A1 attempts a layup. As the ball approaches the ring, B1 intentionally slaps the backboard in an unsporting manner, which also causes the basket to vibrate when the ball is on or within the basket. Both technical foul and basket interference were ruled. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The unsporting slap of the backboard by B1 is a technical foul. The slap causing the basket to vibrate while the ball is on or within the basket is basket interference. Team A is awarded two points for the basket interference. Following the score, Team A is also awarded two free throws for the technical foul and the ball at the division line opposite the scorer's table. These two acts are independent violations/ fouls and are both penalized. Basket interference provisions address the legality of touching the ball or basket while the ball is on or in the basket, touching the backboard or within the cylinder, while technical foul provisions address unsporting actions. Officials should penalize each infraction separately, applying both the basket interference and the technical foul. (4-6, 10-4-4, 10-4-5)

SITUATION 2 (Throw-In Provisions): Team A is in control of the ball in its frontcourt. A1 is dribbling near the division line. While still holding the ball in the frontcourt, A1 steps with one foot onto (but not completely over) the division line. A backcourt violation has occurred. The division line is part of the backcourt, and when any part of a player's body touches it while they have team control in the frontcourt, the ball is considered to have been in the backcourt. Team B is awarded the ball for a throw-in at one of the two designated spots at the 28-foot mark along the sideline in the offended team's frontcourt nearest to where the violation occurred. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** A player shall not cause the ball to be illegally returned from the frontcourt to the backcourt. Stepping on the line while in frontcourt control constitutes a violation even if the player does not completely cross into the backcourt. The throw-in procedure requires the awarding of the ball, for all backcourt violations, to the opponent at one of the four designated spots closest to the violation. In this case, it will be one of the spots along the sideline, 28 feet from the end line. (4-13-2, 7-5-2, 9-9-1)

SITUATION 3 (Offensive Faking Being Fouled): During a try, A1 (Team A) fakes being fouled, first infraction, in the act of shooting. The official immediately gives the "faking being fouled" signal (Signal 15) but withholds the whistle. The try is unsuccessful. If Team B secures the rebound, the whistle is then blown to stop the clock. A warning for faking being fouled is issued to Team A. Team B is awarded the ball for a throw-in at one of the four designated spots nearest to where play was stopped. If Team A secures the rebound and immediately shoots or attacks the basket, the whistle continues to be withheld. If Team A secures the rebound but is no longer attacking the basket to score, the whistle is blown to stop the clock. A warning for faking being fouled is issued to Team A. Team A will resume play by throw-in at one of the four designated spots nearest to where the ball was located when the whistle was sounded. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** This procedure ensures officials properly penalize faking while also respecting live-ball rebounding situations. In each situation, play was stopped when a team was in control of the ball. On the first offense, the warning procedure applies. All subsequent infractions by Team A result in a team technical foul. Team B is awarded two free throws and the ball at the division line opposite the scorer's table. (4- 47-1, 7-5-2, 10-4-7 PENALTY)

SITUATION 4 (Defensive Faking Being Fouled): While A1 drives to the basket and attempts a try, B1 falls to the floor in an attempt to draw a player-control foul, but the contact is incidental. B1 has faked being fouled, first infraction. The official should immediately give the "faking being fouled" signal (Signal 15) but withhold the whistle. If the try is unsuccessful and Team B secures the rebound, the whistle is sounded to stop the clock. A warning is issued to Team B for faking being fouled. Team B retains the ball for a throw-in at the designated spot nearest to where the play was stopped. If the try is unsuccessful and Team A secures the rebound and immediately shoots or attacks the basket, the whistle continues to be withheld. If the try is unsuccessful and Team A secures the rebound and is no longer attacking the basket, the whistle is sounded to stop the clock. A warning is issued to Team B. Team A retains the ball for a throw-in at the designated spot nearest to where the ball was located when the whistle was sounded. If the try is successful, the whistle is sounded immediately after the goal, the goal counts, and Team B retains the right to move along the end line for its ensuing throw-in. A warning is issued to Team B. For the first infraction, only a warning is issued and reported to the scorer's table and the head coach. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Officials should distinguish between a legitimate attempt to draw a charge and a "flop." When judged as faking being fouled, the official follows the same warning/technical foul progression as with an offensive player. All subsequent infractions by Team B result in a team technical foul. Team A is awarded two free throws and possession of the ball at the division line opposite the scorer's table. This approach provides consistency in handling faking being fouled, whether committed by the offense or defense, while preserving the integrity of live-ball situations. (4-47-1, 7-5-2, 6-7-5, 7-5-7, 10-4-7 PENALTY)

SITUATION 5 (Inadvertent Whistle): During a designated-spot throw-in by Team A in its frontcourt, the covering official inadvertently blows the whistle before the throw-in is: (a) completed (legally touched by another player inbounds) (b) controlled by a player on the court after it was deflected by B1. In (a), the ball is returned to Team A for a throw-in at the original designated spot using the point of interruption (POI) procedure. If, instead of an inadvertent whistle, the stoppage had resulted from another POI situation — such as a double foul or simultaneous foul during the throw-in — the same ruling would apply. Team A would retain the ball for a throw-in from the original throw-in spot. In (b), Team A maintains control of the ball and will be awarded a throw-in at one of the four designated spots nearest where the ball was located when the inadvertent whistle occurred. If, instead of an inadvertent whistle, the stoppage had resulted from another POI situation — such as a double foul or simultaneous foul— the same ruling would apply. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** In any situation where play is interrupted without clear team control — whether by inadvertent whistle, double foul or simultaneous foul — officials return the ball to the team that was in control at the point of interruption. On a throw in, team control begins at disposal and continues until there is player control by either team on the court. Therefore, Team A maintains its throw-in privilege in each of these scenarios. (4-36-1; 4-36- 2a, b; 7-5-2)

VIII. Read and discuss the 2025-26 NFHS Basketball Comments on the Rules (below).

4-6-1a & b (NEW): The definition of basket interference has been expanded to include situations in which a player slaps or strikes the backboard, causing the backboard or ring to vibrate, while the ball is in a scoring position. Specifically, if the ball is touching the backboard, located on or within the basket, or within the imaginary cylinder above the basket, such contact is now considered basket interference. This revision ensures that actions which may unfairly influence the outcome of a scoring attempt — by affecting the ball's trajectory or stability of the basket — are penalized appropriately. Officials now have clearer guidance when adjudicating plays involving contact with the backboard during shot attempts.

4-22-1 & 2: The removal of offensive goaltending violations simplifies the enforcement of goaltending by eliminating the need for officials to determine whether a ball touched above the ring was a legitimate try or a pass. Previously, officials were required to interpret player intent — whether the ball was intentionally released as a try — which created inconsistencies in enforcement. By removing offensive goaltending, the rule now places responsibility solely on the defense, streamlining decision-making and supporting the flow of play near the basket. This change may also contribute to more scoring opportunities in contested situations around the rim.

4-22-3 (NEW): A new provision clarifies that once the ball makes contact with the backboard during a shot attempt, it is automatically considered to be on its downward flight. Therefore, if a defensive player touches the ball after it has hit the backboard—and the ball still has a chance to enter the basket—a goaltending violation is to be called. This addition resolves a common area of confusion for officials, coaches, and players regarding when a ball is considered to be descending. The rule aligns with the intent of protecting legitimate shot attempts and offers a more objective standard for determining goaltending after backboard contact.

4-34-1: The definition of a “player” has been clarified to specify that a player is one of the five team members who is legally on the playing court, except during time-outs or intermissions. This clarification provides consistency in rule enforcement, especially when dealing with bench conduct and technical fouls during non-live ball situations. Previously, the distinction between players and other team personnel during stoppages was unclear, leading to inconsistencies in the application of penalties. The updated definition ensures that officials can appropriately apply rules and maintain accountability for conduct, regardless of the game state.

7-5-4: This change provides a clearer, more consistent method for determining the throw-in location after a stoppage of play in the frontcourt when the ball has not gone out of bounds. Rather than relying on an imaginary line to divide the court, officials are now instructed to use the three-point arc as a visible demarcation line. The use of an established court marking reduces judgment errors and improves accuracy in administering throw-ins. This adjustment also enhances game flow and allows teams to better understand and anticipate throw-in positioning following violations, fouls, or other stoppages.

9-2-12 & 9-3-4 (NEW): A new rule addresses scenarios in which a thrower deliberately or deceptively delays returning to the court after stepping out of bounds and then becomes the first to touch the ball upon re-entry. Previously penalized with a technical foul, this action is now considered a violation, aligning the penalty with other similar out-of-bounds infractions. This revision lowers the severity of the penalty, encouraging more consistent and frequent enforcement by officials. It also deters deceptive tactics that could provide an unfair advantage, while preserving the fairness and integrity of the game.

10-4-4b: This revision prohibits a player from intentionally contacting the backboard or ring in a manner that interferes with a scoring attempt or provides an unfair advantage. Such contact, whether during a field goal attempt or as part of a deceptive play, is now explicitly penalized with a technical foul. This change reinforces the importance of maintaining the integrity of scoring opportunities and aligns enforcement with the overall principle of fair play. The clarification assists officials in penalizing unsporting behavior that impacts the outcome of a play near the basket.

OUTLINE MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PRESENT AND SENT TO YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR BY APRIL 1, 2026.

**MONTANA OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION
BASKETBALL STUDY CLUB OUTLINES
2025-26
LESSON #2**

NAME _____

CLUB _____ DATE _____

Take orally as a group the following **2025-26 NFHS Basketball Rules Examination Part I**: Discuss and clarify uncertainties with any question on the exam by referring to the relevant rule(s) reference(s):



2025-26 NFHS BASKETBALL EXAM PART 1

NOTE: In the exam situations, A refers to offensive team and B refers to their opponents, the defensive team. A1 and B1 are players of Team A and Team B. Unless otherwise stated: a single foul or free throw exists; all equipment, situations and acts are legal; a tap is toward the tapper's basket; and it is a two-point field goal, unless a three-point field goal is specifically designated. No errors or mistakes are involved unless noted.

1. A team-control foul is:
 - A. An intentional foul.
 - B. A flagrant foul.
 - C. A technical foul.
 - D. A common foul.

2. Like-colored uniform bottoms may include:
 - A. Shorts.
 - B. Pants.
 - C. Skirts.
 - D. All of the above.

3. If undershirts are worn, they must:
 - A. Be a solid color similar to the jersey or black (under visiting team dark jerseys only).
 - B. Only be black in color.
 - C. Be white.
 - D. Only be one solid color.

4. Two bonus free throws are awarded after a team's _____ foul in each quarter.
 - A. Seventh
 - B. Ninth
 - C. Fifth
 - D. Tenth

5. At the end of each quarter:
 - A. Team fouls remain the same.
 - B. Team fouls are reduced by two fouls.
 - C. Team fouls are reset to zero.
 - D. None of the above.

6. Team A is dribbling the ball in its backcourt outside the three-point line when Team B commits a common foul before the bonus. Team A will be granted a throw-in from:
 - A. One of the four designated spots nearest to where the foul occurred in the team's frontcourt.
 - B. The nearest 28-foot mark along the sideline in the team's backcourt.
 - C. The sideline at the division line.
 - D. None of the above.

7. When the ball is in the offensive team's frontcourt, the designated spot for the throw-in will be either the nearest 28-foot mark along each sideline or the nearest spot 3 feet outside the lane line on the end line if:
 - A. The defensive team commits a violation.
 - B. The defensive team commits a common foul prior to the bonus.
 - C. A time-out is called.
 - D. All of the above.

8. When an official administers a throw-in to the wrong team:
 - A. The mistake can be rectified until the first dead ball.
 - B. The mistake can be rectified until the first dead ball after the ball becomes live unless team control has ended.
 - C. The mistake cannot be rectified.
 - D. The mistake can be rectified until the other team scores.

9. During free throws, substitutions may be made:
 - A. Only before the first attempt.
 - B. Only after all attempts are made.
 - C. Only before the final attempt.
 - D. None of the above.

10. The following number of time-outs may be charged to each team during a regulation game:
 - A. Three 60-second time-outs and two 30-second time-outs.
 - B. Two 60-second time-outs and three 30-second time-outs.
 - C. Five 60-second time-outs.
 - D. Four 30-second time-outs.

11. The referee may correct an obvious mistake by the timer to start or stop the clock properly only when:
 - A. The home team head coach agrees with the timer.

- B. The visiting team head coach agrees with the timer.
 - C. Both coaches agree with the timer.
 - D. The referee has definite information relative to the time involved.
12. The ball is out of bounds when it is touched by:
- A. A player who is out of bounds.
 - B. The supports or back of the backboard.
 - C. The ceiling, overhead equipment or supports.
 - D. All of the above.
13. The ball becomes live when:
- A. On a jump ball, the tossed ball leaves the official's hands.
 - B. On a throw-in, it is at the disposal of the thrower.
 - C. On a free throw, it is at the disposal of the free thrower.
 - D. All of the above.
14. During a jump ball, neither jumper shall:
- A. Touch the tossed ball before it reaches its highest point.
 - B. Leave the center restraining circle until the ball has been touched.
 - C. Touch the ball more than twice.
 - D. All of the above.
15. During pre-game, the official shall:
- A. Verify with the head coach that all team members are properly equipped.
 - B. Verify how many time-outs will be used.
 - C. Verify all team members' names.
 - D. Designate the coaches box.
16. The cord of the net shall:
- A. Be more than 144 thread twine.
 - B. Momentarily check the ball as it passes through.
 - C. Be any color.
 - D. Be over 18 inches in length.
17. If a shot clock is utilized, the shot clock operator shall be located:
- A. Anywhere in the gym.
 - B. On the home team's bench.
 - C. Anywhere on the end line.
 - D. At the scorer's and timer's table.
18. The head coach may:

- A. By state association adoption, stand in the designated coaching box.
 - B. Stand within the coaching box to request a time-out.
 - C. Stand within the coaching box to replace or remove a disqualified or injured player.
 - D. All of the above.
- 19 . If electronic devices are used during the game, they may only be used for:
- A. Voice or video recording.
 - B. Recording and tracking stats.
 - C. Two-way communication.
 - D. Video replay for the officials.
- 20 . The following items are allowed on the front of the uniform above the number:
- A. An image of the school's mascot.
 - B. The school's nickname.
 - C. The school's name.
 - D. All of the above.
- 21 . When bench personnel are beckoned onto the court due to an injured player, the player is subject to removal from the game unless:
- A. The team with the injured player is awarded a time-out.
 - B. The player is not injured.
 - C. The other team substitutes.
 - D. The bench personnel do not come to the court.
- 22 . If a player is bleeding or has blood on the uniform, the player:
- A. Must be immediately removed from the game.
 - B. May remain in the game if resolved within 20 seconds.
 - C. Will receive a technical foul.
 - D. Will immediately receive a delay of game.
- 23 . The following act(s) can be considered faking being fouled:
- A. Yelling at an opponent while they are attempting a shot.
 - B. Making theatrical or exaggerated movements with no illegal contact.
 - C. Asking officials to review the play.
 - D. Complaining to the official.
- 24 . When a player does not immediately pass the ball to an official when the whistle sounds, the official shall:
- A. Issue a bench technical.
 - B. Issue a player technical.
 - C. Issue a warning for delay.
 - D. Eject the player from the game.

- 25 . If the net is contacted while the ball is on or within either basket and it does not affect the try for a goal, the official may:
- A. Allow play to continue.
 - B. Issue a technical foul.
 - C. Issue a personal foul.
 - D. Eject the offending player.
- 26 . If a state utilizes the 35-second shot clock, it may:
- A. Eliminate the five-second closely guarded count while a player is dribbling the ball.
 - B. Eliminate the 10-second backcourt violation.
 - C. Eliminate the five-second closely guarded count while a player holds the ball.
 - D. Expand the closely guarded rule while a player dabbles the ball to 10 seconds instead of five seconds.
- 27 . To start the second, third and fourth quarters, the ball shall be put in play by a:
- A. Jump ball.
 - B. Throw-in under the alternating-possession procedure.
 - C. Throw-in by the visiting team.
 - D. Throw-in by the team in control to end the previous quarter.
- 28 . An alternating-possession throw-in is used when:
- A. The ball is knocked out of bounds by a specific player.
 - B. There are simultaneous floor or free throw violations.
 - C. A player intentionally fouls another player at the beginning of the game.
 - D. A coach calls a time-out after a player collects a loose ball.
- 29 . If the alternating-possession procedure has not been established and the ball goes out of bounds and was last touched simultaneously by two opponents, play is resumed by:
- A. A jump ball in the center restraining circle between the two players who originally jumped to start the game.
 - B. A jump ball by any two players on the court.
 - C. A jump ball in the center restraining circle between the two players involved in the simultaneous contact.
 - D. None of the above.
- 30 . A ball that goes out of bounds will be inbounded:
- A. From one of the four designated-spots, if the throw-in will be in the frontcourt.
 - B. From one of the four designated-spots if the throw-in will be in the backcourt.
 - C. From the designated-spot closest to where the ball went out of bounds.
 - D. From the designated-spot closest to the official responsible for the throw-in.
- 31 . Which of the following is a violation by a player:
- A. Extending elbows to hold the ball under the chin.
 - B. Extending the elbows to hold the ball against the body.

- C. Excessively swinging his/her own arms.
 - D. Any action of the elbow resulting in total body movements as in pivoting.
- 32 . Once the sideline throw-in begins, in which scenario has a violation occurred?
- A. The thrower releases the ball within five seconds.
 - B. The thrower is replaced by a teammate, except as in Rule 7-5-7.
 - C. The thrower touches the inbound ball after it touches another player.
 - D. The thrown ball hits the ring.
- 33 . How does a game begin when fouls occur during pre-game in equal numbers and offset?
- A. The penalties are charged, no free throws are awarded, and the game begins with a jump ball.
 - B. A team technical is given to each team, free throws are awarded, and the game begins with a jump ball.
 - C. The coach loses the coaching box for the remainder of the game, free throws are awarded, and the game begins with a jump ball.
 - D. A bench technical is given to both teams, free throws are awarded, and the game begins with a jump ball.
- 34 . A team captain may request a defensive match-up:
- A. Before the opening jump ball.
 - B. Prior to the start of the second, third and fourth quarters and each overtime period.
 - C. If three or more substitutes from the same team enter during an opportunity to substitute.
 - D. After a technical foul.
- 35 . Fighting is:
- A. An attempt to block an opponent's shot attempt and committing a foul.
 - B. Illegal contact with the opponent while the ball is live.
 - C. Away from the ball with a player not involved in the play.
 - D. An attempt to instigate a fight by committing an unsporting act that causes a person to retaliate by fighting.
- 36 . A throw-in is:
- A. A player shooting a free throw.
 - B. A method of putting the ball in play from out-of-bounds.
 - C. An attempt beyond the three-point line.
 - D. A pass from one player on the perimeter to a player in the lane area.
- 37 . A game may be forfeited if:
- A. A coach refuses to substitute for a disqualified player with substitutes available.
 - B. The coach is ejected, and an assistant does not want to coach.
 - C. Spectators disagree with the coach.
 - D. There is an act that makes a travesty of the game.
- 38 . The ball is out of bounds when it touches or is touched by:
- A. A player who is out of bounds.

- B. Any object outside a boundary.
 - C. The supports for the backboard.
 - D. All of the above.
- 39 . The ball is awarded out of bounds after:
- A. A team-control foul.
 - B. A free throw from a technical foul.
 - C. A field goal.
 - D. All of the above.
- 40 . When the official administers a free throw, the ball shall be placed at the shooter's disposal by:
- A. A two-hand chest pass.
 - B. A bounce pass.
 - C. An overhead pass.
 - D. Rolling the ball to the shooter.
- 41 . The maximum time allotted for a free throw is:
- A. 8 seconds.
 - B. 5 seconds.
 - C. 10 seconds.
 - D. 12 seconds.
- 42 . A player may legally jump from the player's frontcourt, secure control of the ball with both feet off the floor and return to the floor with one or both feet in the backcourt during:
- A. A throw-in.
 - B. A jump ball.
 - C. While on defense.
 - D. All of the above.
- 43 . A player shall not dribble a second time after the player's first dribble has ended, unless it is after the player has lost control because of:
- A. An interrupted dribble.
 - B. A try for field goal.
 - C. The ball touching a teammate.
 - D. An errant pass.
- 44 . Unsporting fouls include:
- A. Taunting.
 - B. Removing a headband.
 - C. Clapping hands after a made shot.
 - D. Clapping hands after a missed shot.

- 45 . The shot clock shall begin:
- A. When there is a change in team control.
 - B. After every dead ball.
 - C. After every pass.
 - D. After picking up the dribble.
- 46 . Which of the following is goaltending?
- A. Contacting the ball after it hits the backboard.
 - B. Deflecting a shot before it leaves the shooter's hand.
 - C. Touching the ball outside the cylinder during a free-throw attempt.
 - D. Both A & C.
- 47 . A player is defined as:
- A. One of five team members on the floor at any given time, except during time-outs and intermissions.
 - B. The team manager.
 - C. The athletic trainer.
 - D. All team members at any given time.
- 48 . The designated spot for a throw-in after a violation that occurs inside the three-point line will take place at:
- A. The nearest designated spot on the end line 3-feet outside the lane line.
 - B. The nearest 28-foot line.
 - C. A spot the official chooses.
 - D. The half-court line.
- 49 . The player inbounding the ball may not:
- A. Bounce the ball inbounds.
 - B. Purposely and/or deceitfully delay returning after legally being out of bounds.
 - C. Move along the end line after inbounding the ball.
 - D. Set a screen after returning to the court.
- 50 . Which of the following constitutes basket interference?
- A. Blocking a shot after it hits the backboard.
 - B. Touching the ball outside the three-point arc.
 - C. Slapping the backboard causing vibration while the ball is on or within the basket.
 - D. Both A & C.
- <https://exam-creator.s3.amazonaws.com/basketball/Cathedra High School 2020 00004 Clip-c2564c9fd1fc4017aff5dfddb5f6ea45.mp4>
- 51 . B1 has been called for a traveling violation inside the 3-point arc in Team B's backcourt. Where should the ball be thrown in by Team A?
- A. On the end line at the nearest spot 3 feet outside the lane.

- B. On the end line at the farthest spot 3 feet outside the lane.
- C. On the sideline at the nearest 28-foot mark along the sideline.
- D. On the sideline at the designated spot closest to the violation.

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- 52 . B3 commits a defensive foul on A3. It is Team B's fifth team foul of the quarter. The following should result:
- A. Team A throws the ball in at the designated spot on the end line.
 - B. Team A throws the ball in at the spot closest to the violation.
 - C. A3 shoots two free throws.
 - D. A3 shoots a one-and-one.

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- 53 . A jump ball ends when the touched ball contacts:
- A. The jumper, an official or the floor.
 - B. A nonjumper, an official or the floor.
 - C. The sideline, an official or the bleachers.
 - D. None of the above.

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- 54 . A5 is called for an illegal dribble violation in the lane in Team A's frontcourt. Where does Team B throw the ball in to begin the next possession?
- A. On the end line at the nearest spot 3 feet outside the lane.
 - B. On the end line at the farthest spot 3 feet outside the lane.
 - C. On the sideline at the nearest 28-foot mark along the sideline.
 - D. On the sideline at the designated spot closest to the violation.

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- 55 . The official on the end line places hands on hips to signal a foul. This signal is used to call a _____ foul.
- A. holding
 - B. player control
 - C. technical
 - D. blocking

OUTLINE MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PRESENT AND SENT TO YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR BY APRIL 1, 2026.

**MONTANA OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION
BASKETBALL STUDY CLUB OUTLINES
2025-26
LESSON #3**

NAME _____

CLUB _____ DATE _____

Review your group's season:

- I. Are there any basketball rules or mechanics changes your group would like to see? Evaluate the new rule changes for this past year. The rules or mechanics changes must be submitted through the new NFHS rule change proposal system. The rule change should go through the pool leader. The pool leader then can enter the information online through a link provided by MHSA. It should be submitted by Feb. 15, 2025.
- II. What issues does your group believe are important universal issues that need to be addressed by all officials' pools throughout the state? **Please send these items to Greta Buehler at the MHSA office so they may possibly be included in rules clinics and/or study clubs.**
- III. Discuss potential MOA "Hall of Fame" candidates in your area. Application forms are available through MHSA (contact Amy Bartels) or you can request one from your Regional Director or the MOA/MHSA office. The deadline for submitting a nominee for the MOA Hall of Fame is March 31st of each year.
- IV. Discuss your methods of evaluating fellow MOA members. Are the methods working properly and positively? Should you start a method if you're not evaluating at the present time? ***These evaluation procedures are especially important to review and discuss because of the process for selecting tournament officials and because the rankings/ratings of each pool is used to help determine selection.*** Do these methods work for "upgrading"? Are they fair to all of your levels? Are you allowing anybody to upgrade? Are your methods for not allowing an upgrade fair?
- V. For the benefit of all, review dues deadlines and upgrading procedures/requirements in the MOA Handbook. Be aware of the importance of notifying the MOA office of address changes. Know the dues due date.
- VI. How many prospective officials did you have in your pool this year? Discuss and evaluate your methods of recruitment.
- VII. You have an obligation to read the MOA Handbook. All officials should be aware of the governing body's rules and regulations. Any changes you'd like to see should be directed to your regional director for the council's meeting in December or June.
- VIII. Take time to discuss your pool's assignment practices. Is your method fair to all involved? What areas may need some improvement or change in relation to assignment of officials?
- IX. Take time to evaluate your individual performance as an official this year. Incorporate your own personal reflections and observations from partners or fellow officials.
- X. Discuss some items concerning what an official can do in the off-season to prepare for next year. Include in the discussion off-season exercise program, reviewing video of games done, attending a camp (if possible), etc.
- XI. Are there any items, issues, clarifications that possibly would benefit all officials by putting it in your official's publication, The Official Word?
- XII. Discuss and evaluate your pool's methods of retaining officials.

- XIII. As a pool, discuss the pros and cons of the 4 video study clubs and possible suggestions for making the videos a better training tool. Please provide this feedback to Greta Buehler at the MHSA.
- XIV. As a pool, look at developing a study club that can be submitted to MHSA for use in the 2025-26 study clubs.
- XV. Evaluate your pool's ranking/rating of officials for the selection of tournament officials. List any positives or negatives of the ranking/rating procedure of your pool.

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BY APRIL 1, 2026.**